

MEMORIAL

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF ARKANSAS,

ASKING

*An appropriation for completing the road from Memphis to Little Rock,
and for opening a road between Little Rock and Fort Smith.*

DECEMBER 30, 1845.

Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and ordered to be printed.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of
America in Congress assembled :*

Your memorialists, the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas,
REPRESENT :

That the road leading from Memphis, in Tennessee, by the way of Little Rock, to Fort Smith, in Arkansas, commenced and partially opened under the direction of the general government whilst Arkansas was yet a territory, although the best practicable route by land from the Mississippi river to their western frontier, is nevertheless, on account of its unfinished condition, almost impassable for more than one hundred miles west from Memphis during a considerable portion of every year, and many portions of it so throughout the year ; that the State of Arkansas, on its admission into the Union, relied upon the good faith of Congress to complete that which it had begun, even had it been a local improvement, especially as great advantages would necessarily result from it, in peopling and disposing of the vast public domain, to which it would afford the best and most accessible avenue ; that although the completion of the road is a matter of deep and incalculable local interest to the people and prosperity of Arkansas, it is equally so to the Union as a great national highway, affording facilities for the defence and protection of the southwestern frontier, which are not always to be found through their rivers ; and as such, at least in the opinion of your memorialists, no constitutional objection to an appropriation for that purpose would be tenable ; and with these views the memorialists respectfully urge upon you the propriety of making an appropriation of at least one hundred thousand dollars, or such larger sum as may be sufficient to complete said road and place it in a condition that it will be a safe and secure highway, passable throughout the year for emigrants and troops, and munitions of war. They deem it,

essential to the prosperity of their State and safety of its citizens, and indispensable as a means in the hands of the general government, to fulfil one of its highest obligations—the security of its outposts and the protection of its most exposed frontier. They would also urge the propriety of making an appropriation of twenty-five thousand dollars to open a road from Little Rock to Fort Smith, on the south side of the Arkansas river.

JOHN S. ROANE,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JOHN WILLIAMSON,

President of the Senate.

Approved, January 7, 1845.

THOS. S. DREW.